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19. *Topsyturvy*. Topside-horway. Spencer writes topside-turvy, but the Anglo-Saxon horvec, horwet, &c., sufficiently accounts for the last two syllables, as meaning dirty road (dirt-way, which is the middle of the road); the entire being conceived with the idea of a person on horseback tumbling headlong into the mud. See *Garlick*, *Ghastly*, and *Hoary*.

20. *Yellowhammer*. Omit the *h*, and take ammer as the German, related to our ember, and descriptive of the colour of that bird, the more specific Goldammer.

Mr. Donovan read the first part of a paper on the early alchemical and chemical physicians.

The principal subjects treated of in Mr. Donovan's paper were as follow :—Professions of the alchemists; origin of alchemy; its effects on chemistry; alchemical books burned by Diocletian; alchemy amongst the Romans; first works on alchemy; treatises of Jamblicus, Heliodorus, and Synesius; Geber the first alchemistic physician; effect of alchemy on his opinions; the universal medicine of Geber anticipated by Empedocles; Albertus Magnus the most celebrated of the alchemistic physicians, and a bishop; his learning; his brazen figure which spoke; Pope John XXII. first practised and then proscribed alchemy; Raymond Lully; his character and acquirements; made gold in England for Edward I., which was coined at the mint; Arnold Villanova; his learning; made gold at Rome which stood the test; his knowledge of medicine; proclamation of Edward III. for the services of alchemists; Pietro d'Apono; his high character as a physician and enormous fees; alchemy and chemistry of King Charles II.; his extreme poverty; Act of Parliament of Henry IV. against, yet patents granted for its practice by Henry VI., in order to pay off crown debts, contrarily to the Act; fifteenth century teemed with alchemists; 4000 writers on the art; state alchemist and state physician in every court of Europe; Basil

Valentine, his real and pretended knowledge of medicine and alchemy ; his denunciation of doctors, apothecaries, and surgeons ; his process for making the philosopher's stone ; his works discovered by a flash of lightning ; impositions of the alchemists ; how they effected them ; their punishments ; alchemists in danger from their very popularity ; the alchemist and the devil ; Butler, the Irish alchemist, and his miracles, testified by Van Helmont ; Glauber, his chemical sauces ; the Rosicrucian physicians, and their ridiculous pretensions ; their origin ; Robert Fludd ; cures by transplantation ; Sir Kenelm Digby ; sympathetic cures ; George Phædro ; tarantism defended lately by Hecker ; alchemists becoming useful chemical physicians ; Paracelsus an enthusiastic impostor who performed singular cures ; his life.

FEBRUARY 14, 1851.

HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

ON the recommendation of Council,

IT WAS RESOLVED, — “That the word ‘President’ be omitted in Chap. V. Sect. 3, of the By-laws ; and also, that the following words be omitted in Sect. 4 of the same Chapter of the By-laws : ‘Five of which shall be taken from the list of those who are already of the above-mentioned committee.’”

Mr. Donovan continued the reading of his paper on the early chemical and alchemical physicians.

Dr. Petrie exhibited an ancient Irish crozier of great beauty of execution, and supposed to be a work of the tenth century, which had been recently obtained by Cardinal Wiseman in